

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 8, 2013**

SENATOR MAYNARD, REPRESENTATIVE GUERRERA AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS CAMERON CHAMPLIN AND I REPRESENT PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS LOCAL UNION 777. THIS TESTIMONY IS IN OPPOSITION TO SECTION 15 OF S.B. 975.

THIS SECTION WOULD EXEMPT PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY FROM THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR OVER 45 YEARS. I HAVE HELD AN UNLIMITED JOURNEYMAN'S LICENSE FOR BOTH PLUMBING and HEATING PIPING AND COOLING FOR 43 YEARS. IN ORDER TO MEET THE STATE REQUIREMENTS I SERVED A FIVE YEAR APPRENTICESHIP BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION FOR THESE LICENSES. THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR THE TRAINING PERIOD CONSIDERING THE KNOWLEDGE ONE MUST HAVE IN ORDER TO INSTALL SYSTEMS CORRECTLY AND IN A SAFE MANNER. REMEMBER THESE LICENSES ARE NECESSARY, BY STATUES, TO INSTALL HIGH PRESSURE STEAM SYSTEMS, CHEMICAL SYSTEMS AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF GASES, ALL OF WHICH ARE HIGHLY VOLATILE. ANY MISTAKES COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR EVEN DEATH. IT WOULD ALSO ALLOW THESE INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM TASKS WHICH INCLUDE SHEET METAL, ELEVATOR, FIRE PROTECTION AND ELECTRICAL WITHOUT THE PROPER TRAINING.

ALSO THE LICENSING EXAMS ARE THE MINIMUM STANDARD FOR OBTAINING A LICENSE. ANYONE THAT HAS NOT SERVED AN APPRENTICESHIP BUT HAS ACQUIRED COMPARABLE TRAINING FROM A SOURCE WHERE A LICENSE WAS NOT REQUIRED, EITHER IN THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER, CAN TAKE THE APPROPRIATE EXAM. IT IS NOT A LENGTHY PROCESS TO OBTAIN A LICENSE IF A PERSON HAS THE PROPER QUALIFICATIONS. IF THIS BILL IS PASSED IT WILL OPEN THE DOOR FOR OTHER QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCIES TO ASK FOR THE SAME CONSIDERATION.

FOR THESE REASONS WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU DELETE SECTION 15 BEFORE VOTING TO MOVE THIS BILL FORWARD. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. IF ANY MORE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED PLEASE CONTACT ME AT EMAIL
OR CELL (860) 287-0020.